beat period by computing the detected beats per minute or the detected beat period with a magnification designated by the magnification designating means, and changing the tempo of the input audio signal in accordance with the changed beats per minute or the changed beat period.

7. (Twice Amended) An audio signal processing apparatus which changes the tempo of an input audio signal, said apparatus comprising:

a magnification designating device which designates a plurality of different magnifications, said different magnifications being at least one of 1/n and n, wherein n is an integer;

a device which automatically detects beats per minute of the input audio signal or a beat period of the input audio signal, changes said beats per minute or said beat period by computing the detected beats per minute or the detected beat period with a magnification designated by the magnification designating device, and changes the tempo of the input audio signal in accordance with the changed beats per minute or the changed beat period.

REMARKS

The above amendment is being made to correct informalities and does not affect the scope of the claims. An Examiners' amendment dated April 19, 2002, was entered amending claims 1 and 7 to change "n or 1/n" to "n and 1/n." This amendment was intended to correct a matter of form. However, the amendment had the side effect of